



# October 2010 Stillwater Voter

Kirsten Tautfest, President

A Publication of Stillwater, Oklahoma,  
League of Women Voters

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## SLWV Calendar\*

*This newsletter is*

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*member dues.*

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*to interested*

*parties.*

*If you are interested*

*in joining the*

*League, please*

*contact Helen Jordan at*

*372-6420.*

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Voter Service

Date/Time	Place	Description
<b>Oct. 5 (Tues.) 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.</b>	<b>West side Wal- mart</b>	<b>Voter Registration Table Members, come help if you can. (Contact Person: Nelda Sander)</b>
Oct. 8 (Fri.) by 5 p.m.	Payne County Election Board 315 W. 6th	<i>LAST DAY TO REGISTER or change address TO VOTE IN NOV. 2ND ELECTION</i>
<b>Oct. 11 (Mon.) 7 to 9 p.m.</b>	<b>Home of Beth Thornton 1215 S. Serenity Ln.</b>	<b>SLWV Book Discussion: <i>Half the Sky</i> by Nicho- las D. Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn (Contact Person: Karen Melcher)</b>
<b>Oct. 12 (Tues.) 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.</b>	<b>Hunan Restau- rant 702 E. 6th</b>	<b>SLWV Noon Meeting: John Price, Stillwater School Board, "School Bond Issue" (Contact Person: Nancy Andrews)</b>
Oct. 12th and 13th (Tues. 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Wed. 8 a.m. to ?)	University of Cen- tral Oklahoma, Nigh University Center	<i>Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy Children's Legislative Forum</i> Tuesday - Making KIDS COUNT in Oklahoma! Tuesday evening - Panel by OK School Board Superintendent candidates Wednesday - Annual Legislative Forum Register for each event: <a href="#">click here</a> (Contact Person: Kirsten Tautfest)
<b>Oct. 13th (Thurs.) 5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Cafe Bella</b>	<b>SLWV Board Meeting (Contact Person: Kirsten Tautfest)</b>
Oct. 15th (Fri.) 8 a.m.	Chamber of Com- merce building Main Street	Monthly Forum: Candidates for State Representa- tive (Contact Person: Chamber of Commerce)
<b>Oct. 21st (Thurs.) 6:30 p.m.; 7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>City Hall Council Room</b>	<b>Forum: County Candidates for Office at 6:30 p.m. and State Representative Candidates at 7:30 p.m. Public is encouraged to attend. (Contact Person: Pat Jaynes)</b>

\*League-sponsored items are in bold.

### Calendar continued

Oct. 24 to 30 Oct. 26 UN Day	Across the United States	Celebrate the United Nations with a week of "Peace, Friendship and Goodwill"
<b>Oct. 26th (Tues.) 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.</b>	<b>Hunan Restaurant 702 E. 6th</b>	<b>SLWV Discussion: <i>Half the Sky</i> book discussion re-visited</b>  <b>(Contact Person: Nancy Andrews)</b>
Nov. 2nd (Tues.) 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	Local Voting Precincts	GENERAL ELECTION BE SURE TO VOTE YOUR CANDIDATE PREFERENCES! Eleven state questions to consider and vote on.
<b>Nov. 8th (Mon.) 7 to 9 p.m.</b>	<b>Home of Gerry Nelson 1008 W. Eskridge Pl.</b>	<b>SLWV Book Discussion: <i>People of the Book</i> by Geraldine Brooks</b> <b>(Contact Person: Margaret Ewing)</b>

### Membership update:

No new members. If you have any suggestions for new members please let me know who with phone or address at <wormdoctor.helen@gmail.com>

This is also a reminder that if you have not renewed your membership please do so today. We need to keep the LWV a vital organization in the community. A membership renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter.

—Helen Jordan, membership chair



### LWV Stillwater Programs

The October 12th LWV meeting will be at Hunan Restaurant, 11:30 lunch, 12-1 meeting. John Price, the Stillwater school board president, will speak about the upcoming school bond.

On October 26th, in celebration of UN Day (October 24th) and "Peace, Friendship, & Goodwill Week" (October 24th - 30th), we will discuss *Half the Sky*.

From the authors' website: "*Half the Sky* lays out an agenda for the world's women and three major abuses: sex trafficking and forced prostitution; gen-

der-based violence including honor killings and mass rape; maternal mortality, which needlessly claims one woman a minute. We know there are many worthy causes competing for attention in the world. We focus on this one because this kind of oppression feels transcendent – and so does the opportunity. Outsiders can truly make a difference. So let us be clear up front: We hope to recruit you to join an incipient movement to emancipate women and fight global poverty by unlocking women's power as economic catalysts. It is a process that transforms bubbly teenage girls from brothel slaves into successful businesswomen. You can help accelerate change if you'll just open your heart and join in" (halftheskymovement.org).

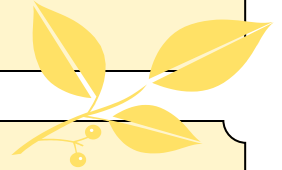
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*Program, cont. ...*

This was the October League book club selection. Some members will have discussed the book at the book club meeting on October 11th. Nancy is so excited about what the program is doing that she would like to share it with the rest of the club who do not regularly attend book club. For more informa-

tion, contact Nancy Andrews at 918-533-1228. The meeting will be at Hunan's at 11:30am. Discussion will begin at Noon.

—Nancy Andrews



## Candidates Forum

The LWV's Candidates Forum will be Thursday, October 21 at Stillwater City Hall. There will be two sessions: 6:30 to 7:20 and 7:30 to 8:30.

The first session will be for the candidates for Payne county assessor, Angela Lockwood and James Cowan and the Payne County Commissioner District 1 position, Bill Deering. Bobby Farley cannot attend.

The later session will be for House of Representatives candidates. District 35 candidates are Rodger Ensing and Dennis Casey. Cory Williams and Ryan

Smith are candidates for House District 34.

Also, the candidates for state Senate District 10, Dale Christenson and Eddie Fields, will attend. Senate District 10 covers a large part of northeast Oklahoma and the northern part of Payne County.

Gladeen Allred will be the moderator and Kirsten Tautfest will be the timer. Other Leaguers will be screeners and helpers. This will be an informative and exciting Forum. Please urge your friends and neighbors to attend.

—Pat Jaynes

## State Questions

The League of Women Voters Oklahoma have determined that the League has a position on five of the eleven state questions on the November 2nd ballot. The positions and the pros & cons for the other 6 can be download from our website at [lwwstillwater.org](http://lwwstillwater.org), or by contacting Kirsten at 405-612-8558.

**Question 744:** The League has taken a position opposing this question. The League has long discouraged the earmarking of state revenues and been in favor of a flexible system of taxation. The projected cost of this measure is \$1.7 billion over the three-year phase in period without identifying any new revenue source. The latter part of this reason comes from the phrasing of the ballot measure itself. If passed, this measure would mandate a substantial increase in taxes, a significant decrease in

critical public services or combination of the two. According to Wayne Greene, this may even include a court-ordered tax increase which is allowed for by our state Constitution. This formula-based measure takes per-pupil funding out of the hands of our elected representatives and gives it to policy makers in surrounding states. Yes, we do support adequate funding of education. However, this is the wrong way to go about it. A recent news article analyzing the high drop out rate in New Jersey public schools stated that the high drop out rate remained the same even with a massive funding increase. The constitutional amendment still leaves the distribution of the funding to each individual school district. Therefore there is no guarantee that the funding will be spent properly to improve the quality of education within the classroom.

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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE**

Membership dues for the 2010-2011 year are due by August 1 and will be delinquent after October 31.

Please fill in this form and send it with your check made payable to League of Women Voters of Stillwater to: Alice Richardson, LWV Treasurer, 1023 South Western Rd., Stillwater, OK. 74074

Name of member(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> member in same household \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

(check one:) For LOCAL use only \_\_\_\_\_ For LOCAL & NATIONAL use \_\_\_\_\_ (see below)

\*Membership new to LWV (first year only) (**\$25.00**) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Regular membership dues (7/1/09-6/30/10) (**\$50.00**) \_\_\_\_\_

\*2<sup>nd</sup> member in same household (**\$25.00**) \_\_\_\_\_

Member Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

Less full-time student credit (**-\$12.50**) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed

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NOTE: Dues and contributions to the LWV are NOT DEDUCTIBLE as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. Please advise us if you are interested in making a tax-deductible contribution to the LWV Education Fund.

At the April 22, 2004 annual meeting, the Stillwater LWV members present requested that we give each member the opportunity to determine how her/his personal e-mail address would be used by the LWV. Therefore, please indicate your preference:

If you check LOCAL use only, we will use your e-mail to inform you of local events and other items the local board feels would be of interest to you. We do not share this information with other organizations without your consent.

If you check LOCAL & NATIONAL use, we will forward your e-mail address to the LWVUS, where it will be used to send you news from the national headquarters on a more timely basis than the quarterly publication. The national league could share this information with other organizations. Also, in the past, we have received notices that there have been unauthorized use of these addresses from LWVUS. If you have anti-spam and virus protection on your computer, this might be of minimal concern.

\* At the April 24, 2008 annual meeting, the Stillwater LWV members present approved increasing our local annual dues from \$45 to \$50. Of this amount, \$44.20 is allocated to LWVOK and LWVUS for per member payments during the current fiscal year.

*State questions, cont. ...*

**Question 746. Voter ID:** Of course the League has taken a position opposing this one. Talking points to others should include: The right to vote is the first principle of a free society. Any restriction on that right strikes at the heart of freedom. The right to vote has been a basic principle of League of Women Voters since its origin in 1920. We fought to gain the vote for women, for minorities and for 18 year-olds, and worked to remove barriers to voting like poll taxes and literacy tests. This amendment effectively raises a new barrier for all Oklahomans, especially the elderly, poor and minority populations. Cost is estimated to be up to \$100,000 a year. It is an irresponsible expenditure on an unnecessary program at a time of serious recession and large cuts in critical state services, e.g. education and medical services. There has been absolutely no evidence of in-person voter fraud in Oklahoma. Voters are already identified by the election boards and at the polls. There will be longer lines, especially during heavy turnout elections. Precinct officials will be hard to recruit because of the burdensome requirement to inspect voter identification, match it to the register and to process numerous provisional ballots. Additionally, a conservative PAC called OK-SAFE, Inc has joined us in opposing this measure because it may be considered a gateway to a national ID card.

**Question 751. English Only.** The League opposes this measure because the League strongly endorses citizen participation in their government. This measure discriminates against new citizens in their ability to transact normal business with the state. Government forms are difficult enough when English is a citizen's first language. When English is a citizen's second language, the state should be as accommodating and responsive to Oklahomans as businesses are. What constitutes acceptable English is not defined. The state's "Official actions" are not defined. Federal exemptions are not defined. The confusing language in this proposition would encourage constitutional challenges, costly to taxpayers to defend.

The League joined a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Questions 746 & 751 filed in Tulsa County Court. The lawsuit was heard in mid-September. At this point, it was too late to keep the questions off the ballot, since the printing of the large, double-sided ballots had already begun. The questions will be on the

ballot, but if either or both pass, the plaintiffs stated that they will renew their challenge. This goes to the last point - "costly to taxpayers to defend" since it is your tax dollars that could go to other critical services and needs that will be wasted on lawyers' bills. To keep track of the case, you may search Tulsa County courts at [oscn.net](http://oscn.net) for CV-2010-00775.

**Question 755.** "Save our State" a.k.a. Sharia law question. The League opposes this question because we have a long-held Position that the "Constitution should express only fundamental law and principle." If passed, it will impact Oklahoma's oil industry doing business in foreign countries. Rejecting laws of one religious faith is prejudicial for practitioners of that faith in court. The judiciary should be free from any restrictions in its duty to interpret and apply the law. The foundation of U.S. law is the English Common Law and is considered when deciding cases. A point of my own personal research here, John A. Makdisi claim that English Common Law is rooted in the original tenants of Islamic law ("Islamic Origins of the Common Law" in 77 N.C. L. Rev. 1635 (1998-1999) [heinonline.com](http://heinonline.com)). That would render most of Oklahoma law useless, then, perhaps? Additionally, religious discrimination will potentially result in First Amendment challenges and costs to Oklahoma taxpayers to defend.

Finally, **Question 756.** Health Care opt out. Again, the League obviously opposes this question. This is based primarily on the League's National position on supporting Health Care Reform that passed in March. I will not reprint the first two points of the position statement. However, the absurdity of the question lies within the ballot measure itself - Federal law trumps state law. Also, as evidenced by the Federal case against portions of the Arizona immigration law, the current Federal administration may file a lawsuit challenging the law, if passed, and thus costing state taxpayers money. Federal dollars supply a large majority (70% or more?) of the state administered Medicaid program. Federal government may decide to withhold those dollars, thus creating a huge budget crisis within the state.

You are encouraged to write the local newspapers individually on these positions. The NewsPress will likely not print the letter if you state that you are a member

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*State questions, cont. ...*

of the League of Women Voters. Put the talking points in your own words. Encourage others to learn about the questions. Remind them that the questions are complicated and the print tiny on the double sided ballot. They do not want to be reading each measure on

the ballot in the voting booth. Cheat sheets will be allowed in, but remind folks to take them with them when they leave.

—Kirsten Tautfest

### Fantastic Fundraiser:

"Mmm. Pie. . . Pecans will be available in late November. To preorder, email Kirsten at ktautfest@gmail.com with the number of 1-pound bags. Delivery should be just after November 20th (the date of the next State League board meeting), but before Thanksgiving. If we need to have an informal luncheon for everyone to pick up, we can do that. Cost is \$10 per bag. For those who have not ordered them in the past, the pecans are shelled, mostly whole, and great for snacking, too."

#### VOTER SERVICE:

We had a voter registration table at IGA Tuesday, Sept. 28th and got 4 changes of address.

Another voter registration is set up for Tuesday, Oct. 5th at Wal-Mart.

Check elsewhere in the Voter for information about our forum.

—Nelda Sander, Voter Service



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF STILLWATER**

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